

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claims 23-25; and amends Claims 12, 19-20 and 22.

Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular support for Claim 12 is found in canceled Claims 23-25. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 12-22 and 26-29 will be pending in this application. Claim 12 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Claims 12-18, 24 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. patent 4,242,403 ("Mattimoe"). However, Claims 23 and 25 are not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Mattimoe. Claims 23 and 25 are incorporated into independent Claim 12. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn.

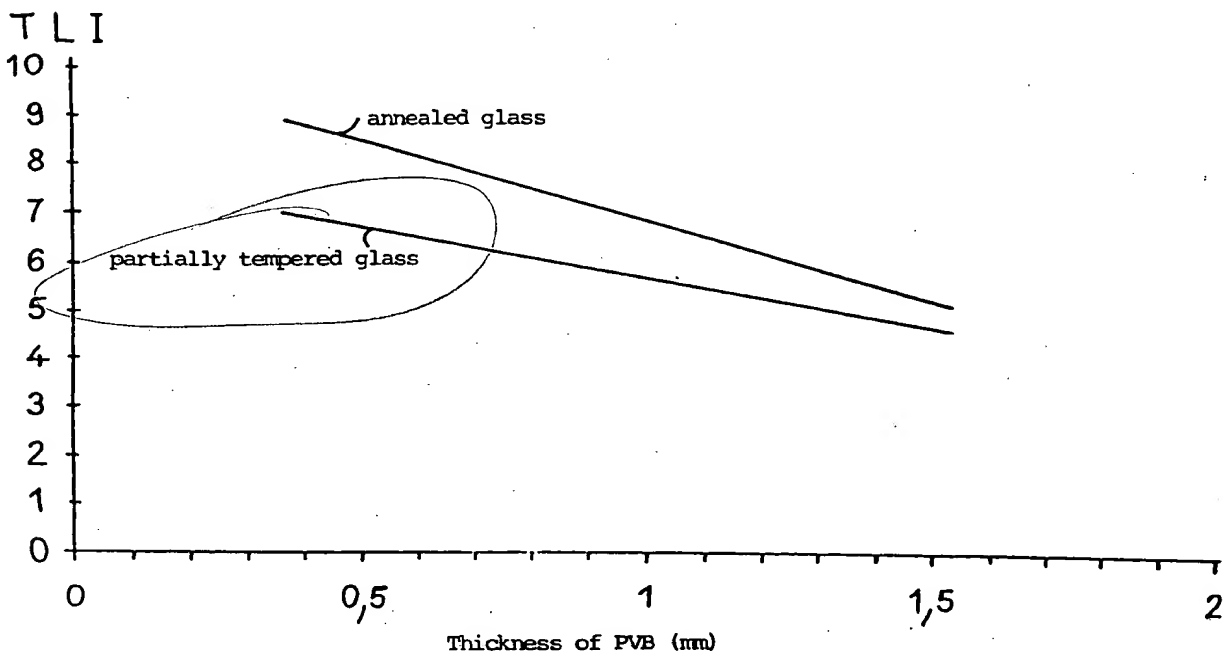
Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mattimoe. In addition, Claims 19-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mattimoe in view of admitted prior art in the specification ("APA").

The present invention provides a glazing which affords exceptional laceration protection to persons striking against the glazing after it has shattered. The lacerations that result when a person strikes against a shattered laminated glazing are far more severe than those that result when a person strikes against an intact glazing surface, which breaks up only afterwards. The laceration protection achieved by the present invention is provided by a laminated glazing produced by adhering together, with an intercalary adhesive layer having a

thickness of more than 0.76 mm, two sheets of glass each having a thickness of from 1.5 to 3 mm and having a core compressive stress in the central zone ranging from 20 to 50 MPa.

The superior anti-laceration properties of the glazing produced by the claimed method are discussed in specification at Example 1 and illustrated in Fig. 1, which is reproduced below.

FIGURE 1



The partially tempered glass in Fig. 1 has a core compressive stress in the central zone approximately equal to 22 ± 5 MPa. Specification at page 8, lines 20-21. In contrast, the annealed glass in Fig. 1 has a core compressive stress of approximately zero. Fig. 1 shows that laminated glazing produced by the method of independent Claim 1 using the compressively stressed partially tempered glass exhibits a significantly lower Triple

Laceration Index ("TLI"), indicative of lacerations of less severity, than laminated glazing produced using the non-compressively stressed annealed glass.

In contrast to the present invention, Mattimoe is directed to multi-layer automotive glazing units with transparent substrates covered with plastic protective covers. Mattimoe at Abstract; column 1, lines 8-9; column 3, lines 65-66. Mattimoe discloses that the transparent substrates can be conventional laminated safety glass comprising two sheets of glass bonded together, under heat and pressure, by an interposed layer of plastic, which can be a 0.030" (= 0.76 mm) thick sheet of polyvinylbutyral. Mattimoe at column 3, lines 39-46.

Mattimoe also discloses:

One object of the invention is to provide an automotive glazing unit that is dimensionally, functionally and optically comparable to its commercially accepted standard glass counterpart, but that will appreciably reduce the number and severity of *lacerative injuries to persons thrown against or otherwise brought into contact with the glazing under impact conditions*; while, at the same time, exhibiting improved ability to decelerate movement of a person thrown against it without exceeding tolerable deceleration limits, and increased penetration resistance at both high and low temperatures.

Another object, when employing a primarily glass substrate, is to materially *reduce the amount of flying glass*, and of resultant personal injury to car occupants, *from collisions with birds or with objects thrown from overpasses or elsewhere outside the vehicle*.

Still another, and the primary object of this invention is to incorporate materials in, and employ procedures for, producing such glazing units that will insure the resulting units meeting the exacting standards of appearance, safety, utility and commercial practicability required in present day automobiles. Mattimoe at column 1, lines 45-66 (emphasis added).

However, Mattimoe is silent about producing a glazing resulting in less severe lacerations when the glazing is shattered and a person thrown against the shattered glazing.

Not
commensurate

Furthermore, Mattimoe fails to suggest the combination of features of independent Claim 12, including an intercalary adhesive layer having a thickness of more than 0.76 mm,

Wrong!

and glass sheets each having a thickness of from 1.5 to 3 mm and a core compressive stress in the central zone ranging from 20 to 50 MPa.

Moreover, Mattimoe fails to suggest the significant improvement in anti-laceration properties, illustrated above in Fig. 1, that result when a glazing is formed by the method of independent Claim 1.

Thus Mattimoe fails to have rendered obvious the claimed invention.

Claims 19-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. To obviate the rejection, Claims 19-20 and 22 are amended.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that the reference cited in the International Search Report has been considered. Final Rejection at page 2, section 2, line 1. To have this reference printed on the patent issuing from the above-identified application, attached is a Form PTO-1449 listing the reference.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:

Form PTO-1449 citing reference from International Search Report



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